THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) While no such Meeting has recently been convened, a Meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Leaders of the Parties was arranged (by the Planning Commission) on 8th December, 2000 to discuss the management of anti-poverty programmes in the country.

It is now proposed to hold an All-Party Meeting of Leaders of the Parties in Parliament to discuss rural development related issues, including devolution of powers.

Deployment of Special Service Battalion along Indo-Nepal Border

*148. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to deploy a Special Service Battalion of a Special Police Organisation along Indo-Nepal border in Bihar to control trans-border activities, including smuggling and I.S.I. activities;

(b) whether this has been done after some anti-national activities came to Government's notice; and

(c) if so, the details of such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Of late, Indo-Nepal border has emerged as a vital link in Pakistans prolonged low intensity proxy war against India. Pak ISI has been misusing this open border for launching major terrorist offensives against India. Militants from Kashmir and Punjab also continue to take shelter in Nepal and there is a growing nexus between militants/anti-India elements based in Nepalese territory with their counterparts on the Indian side of the border. This is in addition to other trans-border criminal activities like smuggling of contraband, explosives and fake Indian currency for which this border has been used for quite some time.